

Message Text

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P 150930Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3902

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 0381

USIAC

E.O. 11652: NA

SUBJ: ASTRONAUTS VISIT

1. HEIGHTENED AWARENESS OF POSITIVE US CONTRIBUTION TO SPACE RESERACH RESULT OF UAE VISIT BY ASTRONAUTS SLAYTON, STAFFORD, BRAND ACCOMPANIED BY DR. FAROUK EL-BAZ WHO WERE UNOFFICIAL GUESTS OF UAEG. ENTIRE PARTY WAS QUARTERED IN KHUBAIRI PALACE. IN COURTESY CALL TO UAE PRESIDENT, SHEIKH ZAYED EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE "US WHICH KNOWS THE WAY OF GOODNESS" WILL EMPLOY IT "IN SPACE AND ON EARTH FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL". IN EACH APPOINTMENT ASTRONAUTS UNASSUMING, IMMENSELY HUMAN, WITH LIVELY SENSE OF HUMOR, REPRESENTING VERY BEST IN AMERICAN SOCIETY. AT ALL TIMES FIELDDED QUESTIONS WITH EASE AND FINESSE, MAKING THE COMPLEX INTELLIGIBLE AS THEY RELATED US SPACE ACHIEVEMENTS TO THEIR UAE AUDIENCES.

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2. NOON ARRIVAL ON FEBRUARY 11 FOLLOWED BY

EVENING LECTURE HOSTED BY MINISTRY
INFORMATION AND CULTURE. HALL AT TOURIST
CLUB PACKED WITH 800 INVITED SENCOR
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, MIDDLE LEVEL STAFF,
DIPLOMATS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMUNITY
AT LARGE, NINETY PER CENT OF WHOM WERE ARABS.
EXTENSIVE QUESTION AND ANSWER
PERIOD FOLLOWED REMARKS ACCOMPANING SLIDES
OF SPACE PHOTOS WITH ACCENT ON DESERT
SAND FORMATION IN SAHARA AND ARABIAN
PENINSULA. AUDIENCE INTEREST KEEN IN
FUTURE BENEFITS TO ARABYORLD OF
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OPENED UP BY SPACE
EXPLORATION. DINNER FOLLOWED LECTURE
IN HILTON HOTEL GIVEN BY H.E SAEED AL-GHAITH,
MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
AND CULTURE.

3. FEBRUARY 12 A.M. VISITS TO AMERICAN
COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND ABU DHABI BOYS'
SECONDARY SCHOOL MOST SUCCESSFUL. STUDENTS
IN UAE SCHOOL RESERACHED THEIR QUESTIONS
IN USIS OFFICE WEEK BEFORE. SCHEDULED
NOON VISIT WITH MINISTRY EDUCATION
OFFICIALS FOLLOWED BY CALL ON ABU DHABI
RULER, SHEIKH ZAYED WHERE PRESENTATION OF
MODEL APOLLO SHUTTLE MADE. RULER EXTENDED
WHAT WAS SCHEDULED TO BE TEN MINUTE VISIT
TO ONE HOUR, REITERATING US LEAD IN
EXTENDING BENEFITS OF SPACE SCIENTIFIC
RESERACH AND RELTATED TECHNOLOGY TO
BENEFIT ALL MANKIND. ASTRONAUTS WITH
DR. EL-BAZ TRANSLATING MOST EFFECTIVE
IN STRESSING THIS POSITIVE POTENTIAL.
EMBASSY RECEPTION HOSTED BY AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,
MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AND
REPRESENTATIVES FROM BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

4. WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE OF ALL PUBLIC
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EVENTS INCLUDING COURTESY CALL ON SHEIKH
ZAYED. TV AND NESPAPER INTERVIEWS
ALSO EXTENSIVE.

5. COMMENT: MOST EFFECTIVE USIS SPONSORED
PROGRAM YET IN UAE IN TERMS OF IMPACT IN PUTTING
FORWARD US CONCERN AND HELP FOR DEVELOPMENT
AND PROGRESS IN ARAB WORLD. DR. EL-BAZ

A "STAR" IN THE GULF AND ASTRONAUTS
EXEMPLARY REPRESENTATIVES OF US. POST
APPRECIATES VISIT.
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